



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
Assistant Secretary DOCKETS

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

2008-12-30 10:18

December 30, 2008

The Honorable Anibal Acevedo Vila  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902

Dear Governor Vila:

Thank you for your letter of December 10, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Aviation and International Affairs

ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ

GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

December 10, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing you today to advocate on behalf of our corporate partner, American Airlines. American has been a long time sustainable partner of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican community in the mainland and the Island. American, together with its affiliate American Eagle, is the most important carrier in the Island and the Caribbean and makes a significant contribution to the economy of our region.

Please support and approve the application for antitrust immunity filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian. Approval of this application as is by the U.S. Department of Transportation would enable these five oneworld alliance airlines that operate transatlantic service to work closely together to deliver highly competitive flight schedules, fares and service as well as compete on equal footing with Star and SkyTeam alliances, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

In addition, please support and approve the request by American, British Airways and Iberia to establish a joint business agreement for operations between North America and Europe, which would create a more efficient and comprehensive transatlantic network for the carriers' customers. This action

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The Honorable Mary Peters  
December 10, 2008

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will have a positive impact on the transportation of cargo by air and air travel by offering customers more service, scheduling and pricing options and will help to ensure that customers continue to benefit from having three competitive air alliances.

The impact of your decision will benefit our economy and the economy of the Caribbean region as well as all 8 million Puerto Ricans that travel globally, regionally, and locally on American and the other carriers. .

We appreciate your support,



Arnbal Acevedo Vilá